

BARG Newsletter September 2025

***Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T
September 2025 Monthly Newsletter***

**Next General Meeting BARG inc
11:00am, Saturday 27th September 2025
At the Airport - All Welcome**

Contacting us

BARG@BARG.ORG.AU

We're on the web.

www.barg.org.au

https://twitter.com/vk3_barg

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/>



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Front Page VK3RWA 147.100 MHz 2m Voice Repeater Mt Ben Nevis
(Uses CTCSS of 91.5 Hz to access) circa 2005

Times and dates of nets as below

Club Nets: VHF NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm on 146.750 MHz - VK3RBA

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

6m NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8:30 pm on 53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX - FM with a 91.5 tone - VK3RWU

LINKED REPEATERS: The local VK3RBA-70cm repeater on Mt Buninyong is part of a network of linked repeaters covering North-Western Victoria.

Access details for this repeater have recently changed.

For full details of this linked network and access details

see <https://www.grz.com/lookup/vk3rba>

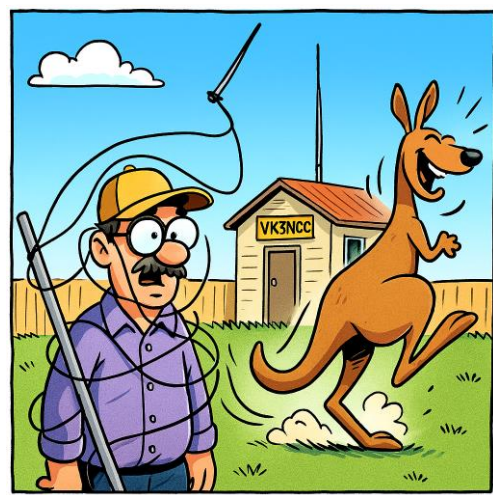
You can listen to the system live <http://vk3rba.dyndns.org:441/>

This linked system may be accessed via IRLP node 9503

A story told over the 2m Net one evening involves one of our members finding that his HF antenna was not performing as it should.

A look out into the yard found his problem.

Don't you love living in the country amongst our wildlife?





Vice President's Report September 2025



Greetings all,

Our first committee meeting for the 2025-2026 membership year has just occurred.

We welcomed Jeff/VK3JHR on board as treasurer. At the same time we bid farewell to Chris/VK3QY and Mal/VK3OAK. Ben/VK3NRD has stood down from the president role, but remains on committee to provide continuity. We registered a vote of thanks to all three for their efforts whilst they were involved. (a small link on our home page will let you see the current committee.)

Elsewhere in this issue you should find an item about JOTA 2025. If you would like to be involved contact Ian/VK3YFD.

Peter/VK3APW told us that the progress on the new VK3RBT repeater is going well, and we look forward to improving weather for when it will be ready to start repeating. Hamvention 2026- we have thankfully received some more signals of commitment from membership and we continue to plan. A few more responses would be appreciated. You'll find a clickable link on the front page of our web presence. (BARG.ORG.AU)

Saturday the 27th of September is our General meeting at the club rooms starting at 11AM. At time of writing we have a total of 54 members, it would be great to see a few more members coming along.

I hear there will be an interesting presentation after the meeting. Bring along some gold coins, and we may have a raffle. You can even pickup your new membership card if you haven't already done so.

Cheers, 73

Colin VK3NCC

BARG inc. OFFICE BEARERS

President	Vacant	Ordinary Member	Tom George VK3DMK
Vice President	Colin Consiglio VK3NCC	Ordinary Member	Ian Fairweather VK3YFD
Secretary	Peter Westgarth VK3APW	Ordinary Member	Doug Ellery VK3DRE
Treasurer	Jeff Rickerby VK3JHR	Ordinary Member	David Martin VK3KQT
Ordinary Member	Craig Cook VK3KG	Ordinary Member	Ben Daniel VK3NRD

The next BARG General Meeting

Saturday 27th of September 2025

11:00am

Youth Net on the Link System

Contributor James VK3JFR

31/8/25

VK4IKZ, VK4AHA, VK3BKO, VK4MCW, VK1AAK

7/9/25

VK4IKZ, VK3JFR, VK4AHA, VK3NFL, VK3HJQ

14/9/25

VK4AHA, VK4IKZ, VK3XEM, VK3FTEC

21/9/25

VK3JFR, VK4IKZ, VK3NFL, VK4AHA, VK4MCW
VK3JB, VK1AAK



A message from Ian VK3YFD about JOTA 2025

JOTA is related to a large camp that is happening at Pax Hill in Ballarat East on October 18th. There will be around 80 scouts from the area attending the camp. JOTA is just one of the many activities that scouts will be required to do and they will be rotated thru 6 or 8 at a time on the Saturday.

Currently Peter Westgarth, John Frost and myself have volunteered to do the honours.

Happy to have more hands if people want to assist. People should contact Peter VK3APW or Ian VK3YFD if they want to help out - we will also have to go out there on Friday (17th) to set up antennas etc and ensure the space is ready for the following day.

Peter and I are taking radio gear and HF antennas and John VK3JF may be bringing a radio as well, so I think we are fine for gear.



<https://scouts.com.au/blog/2025/07/28/jota-joti-2025-is-coming-a-world-shaped-by-youth/>

Amateur Radio Operator

Noun;

An introvert who shells out big bucks on expensive electronics for the purpose of sitting in a room attempting to connect with total strangers.

Harry Hekkema VK3AHH: A Life Tuned to Passion and Perseverance

Born in Holland in the post-war era, Harry Hekkema migrated to Australia with his family, eventually settling in Sebastopol. It was there that he met Theresa, the love of his life. They married and built a home not far from his family's, raising their own children in the heart of the community.

Harry's fascination with radio began with CB (Citizens Band) radio, a lively hobby that often involved staying one step ahead of the local Radio Inspector. Seeking something more substantial, Harry and a few friends joined classes run by the Western District Radio Group, part of the Victorian division of the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA). The group was highly active, hosting Western Victorian Net sessions and participating in radio conventions. The classes were led by Brian Stares, VK3ZBS, who also served as president of the division for a time.



After earning his amateur radio callsign, VK3KGL, Harry focused his efforts on the ten-metre band, which was thriving thanks to the sunspot cycle. He built a cubical quad antenna that gave him exceptional performance and opened the door to global communication.

Harry's ten-metre adventures expanded through the 10/10 International group, which offered awards for contacting ten or more stations. One standout was the Sovereign Hill Award, created by BARG and led by Leo McPherson VK3NIQ. This award drew interest from around the world, and Harry spent countless hours chasing contacts—especially from “Ballarat”, California, USA.

Professionally, Harry worked at Kerr and Lewis, a leading local business in TV and white goods repair. The company was owned by fellow amateurs John Lewis VK3HW and Alf Kerr, an electrical engineer. Under the guidance of service manager Brian Stares VK3ZBS, Harry learned the ins and outs of the trade. He was joined by Gordon McDonald VK3ZEJ, who would later become a respected figure in VHF amateur radio and in his professional field.

Harry eventually ventured into his own business with a friend, repairing TVs, washing machines, and refrigerators. However, economic downturns made it difficult to sustain the enterprise.

He later took a position at the Telecom Training School in Wendouree, working in cleaning and gardening. It was here that he became involved with the production of the BARG magazine, originally managed by Bob VK3BNC. Harry took over the publication and ran it with dedication for many years.

Harry served in many positions of the BARG between 1984 and 2010. These were:

- Member's representative on Committee
- Treasurer

- Newsletter Editor
- Web Site Coordinator
- Property Officer

Some held concurrently. His efforts were invaluable to the club.

In July 2009 he was appointed as a life member in recognition of services rendered to BARG.



BARG LIFE MEMBERS July 2009

Back: Ian/VK3AXH, Norm/VK3LBA, Bob/VK3BNC, Gordon/VK3FGC
 Front: Harry/VK3KGL, Kevin/VK3WN, Charlie/VK3DCS

In his later life, Harry faced a long battle with cancer. Despite frequent treatments and hospital stays, he remained spirited and determined, supported by Theresa and his family. He passed away surrounded by loved ones—just as he had lived with family at the center of his world.

Vale Harry SK 31st August 2025, thanks for all your past efforts that kept the BARG ticking along.

Bob Terrill, VK3BNC (main article),

Colin Consiglio, VK3NCC (research on contributions to BARG)

I tried to catch some Fog. I mist.
 I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop anytime.
 I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Than it dawned on me.
 This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.
 What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.
 Broken pencils are pointless.

Hurricane Watch Net Marks 60 Years of Service

On the US Labor Day weekend, 1st September 2025, the [Hurricane Watch Net \(HWN\)](#) celebrates its 60th anniversary of providing critical communications support to the [National Hurricane Center \(NHC\)](#) and communities impacted by hurricanes.

As Hurricane Betsy was pummeling the Caribbean on Labor Day weekend 1965, a ham radio operator started hearing calls for information from operators in the Bahamas. Jerry Murphy, K8YUW, sprang into action. He began relaying surface data and storm conditions to help those in the path.



That first net paved the way for what would become the Hurricane Watch Net.

HWN has been active for 156 landfalling hurricanes, including 60 major hurricanes (Category 3 or stronger). Of those, 12 struck as Category 5 hurricanes. The net's longest continuous activation occurred during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, when operators remained on the air for 151 hours straight.

Among the deadliest storms ever recorded by the net was Hurricane Mitch in 1998, which claimed more than 11,000 lives in Central America.

[HWN operates](#) on 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, often simultaneously, with net control stations strategically positioned throughout the region to maximize coverage.

We are proud to carry forward the vision of our founder, Jerry Murphy, who passed earlier this year at age 88," said HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV.

For more information about the HWN, or to get involved as a volunteer, visit www.hwn.org.

<https://www.arrl.org/news/view/hurricane-watch-net-marks-60-years-of-service>

JAYCAR CLUB MEMBER DISCOUNT

Dear All,

As a result of the efforts of Peter/APW and Ian/YFD the BARG now has a trade Account with JAYCAR.

This account will provide discount on items purchased at JAYCAR.

There will be some exclusions.

To take advantage of this benefit you will have to show your current BARG membership card that shows your name, an expiry date and identify the Trade account number when you make a purchase.

For convenience, this number has been included on the current issue membership card.

These were made available at the AGM.

If you did not attend, arrangements will need to be made to collect.



2025 RD Contest Results

Congratulations to all who participated this year and well done to James VK3JFR with a 1st and 2nd.

SO PH

1st VK7TW
2nd VK7ZBX
3rd VK7OO

SO CW

1st VK2GR
2nd VK3OU
3rd VK2BHO

SO MX

1st VK5LJ
2nd VK7DW
3rd VK7GN

SO QRP PH

1st VK7C (VK7GH)
2nd VK3KK
3rd VK2TTL

SO QRP CW

1st VK3VB
2nd VK3JFR
3rd VK3QB

SO QRP MX

1st VK2IO
2nd VK4PDG
3rd Nil Entry

Multi-Single

1st VK4M (VK4SN VK4TS)
2nd VK3GOW (VK3GOW VK3PDB VK3GRK)
3rd VK4BA (VK4MGO VK4GUE VK4BRO VK4MWL VK4JG VK4QAS VK4DCP VK4CEG VK4AYE VK4EDF VK4FRZ VK4ETH)

Multi-Multit

1st VL4R (VK4DI VK4ZD)
2nd VK7CMS (VK7GM VK7CRX VK7BS VK7TK VK7JGD)
3rd VK4P (VK4KY VK4FY)

TEAMS

1st TOTWOO VK7TO VK7TW VK7OO 2486
2nd Cronies+1 VK7ZBX VK7ZMS VK7HH 2402
3rd OLD Slow Dogs VK4M VK2MOR VJ2A 1864

TOP ROOKIE

VK3GCD 434 SOPH

TOP 3 YOUTH

1st VK3JFR 154 SOCW
2nd VK4OTZ 104 SOPH
3rd VK4IKZ 57 SOP

VK7 once again takes out state honours with an impressive 40 logs submitted and a total score of 10,859 points.

VK3 was the closest rival submitting 38 logs and 5,436 points. 186 logs were received in total, including 5 paper logs, one of which was not identifiable.

This year I introduced a Youth section to recognise and encourage youth participation.

We had three entrants and in order of their scores we have;

VK3JFR with 154 points from the SOCW category

VK4OTZ with 104 points from the SOPH category, and

VK4IKZ with 57 point from the SOPH category.

Well done all, and hope to see you again next year. WIA Broadcast 14/08/2025
Best 73, Alan VK4SN.

Congratulations James VK3JFR



Oscilloscopes Part One – Analogue

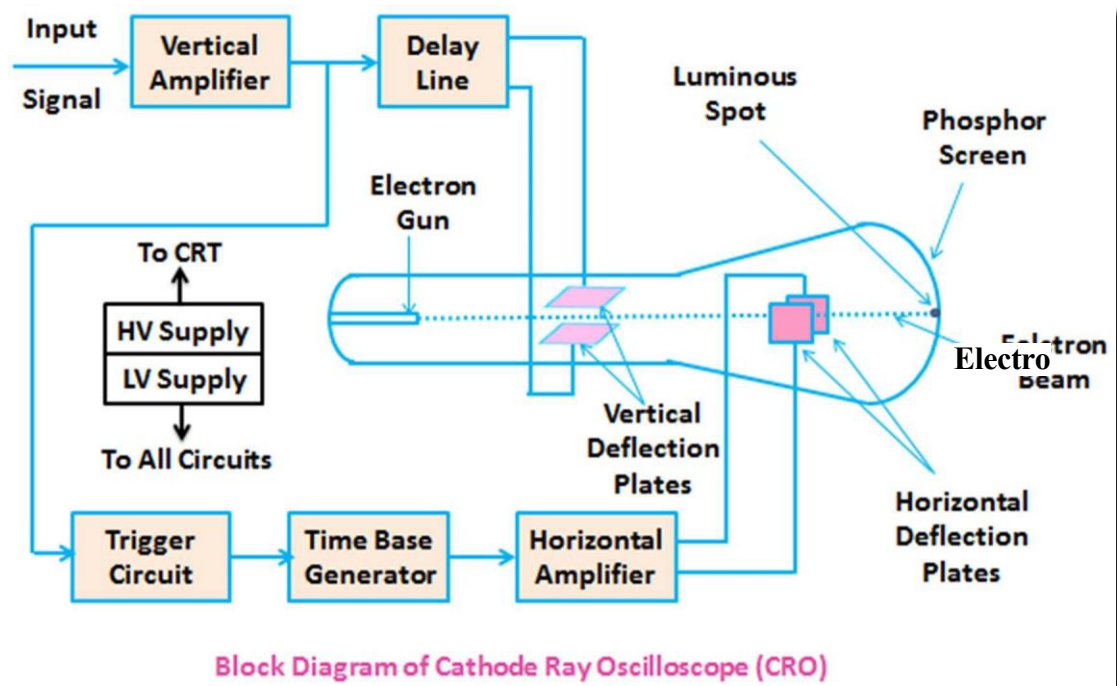
By Brian Sala - VK3ZUS for BARG

Traditional analog scopes use a cathode ray tube (CRT) to display voltage waveforms against time, so hence the name 'CRO' for cathode ray oscilloscope. They consist of a broadband DC coupled amplifier with high gain, preceded by a precision attenuator for each 'channel'. The attenuator volts/division switch (division refers to the grid on the CRT graticule) usually steps in a 1:2:5 sequence over several decades. These amplifiers drive the CRT electron beam vertically on the screen. Since there is only one beam, when viewing the signals from two channels, the CRO either shows one then the other (alternate mode, useful for high sweep speeds) or switches rapidly between them (chop mode, useful for low sweep speeds). The input impedance is 1 Megohm at the input BNC, and the amplifiers are flat from DC to the CRO bandwidth (the 3dB down point). The vertical amplifiers can have a dc offset voltage added to the input signal, which allows the trace to be shifted vertically using the position control.

Probes change that, so a 1:1 probe will significantly reduce the scope bandwidth, so. it is always good practice to use a 10:1 probe, which also reduces circuit loading.

Also note that switching the input coupling to ground connects the vertical amplifier input to ground but does **not** ground the BNC connector!

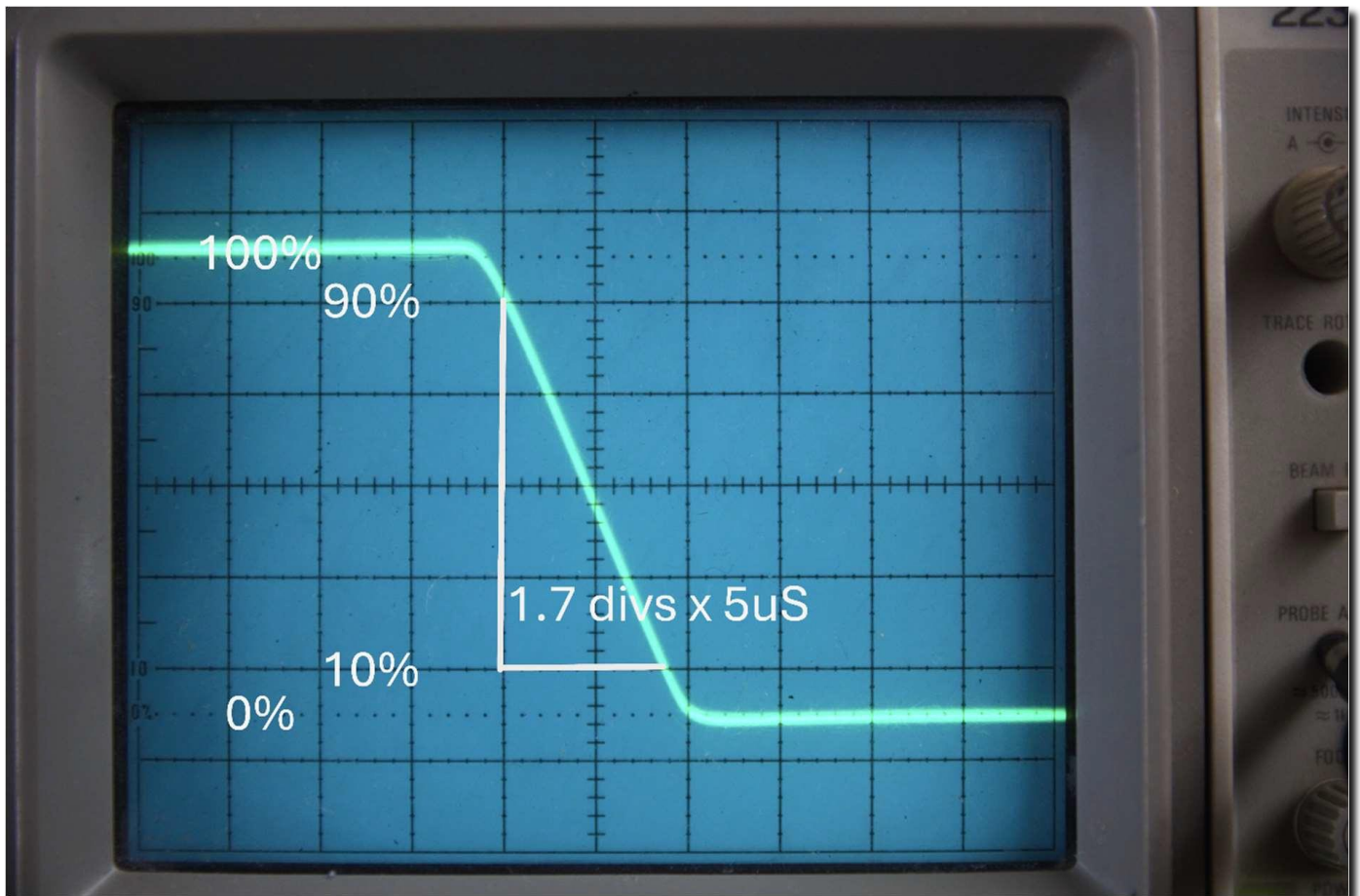
Warning: The BNC connectors are all connected to the oscilloscope chassis, and therefore to the mains ground. Never connect a probe's ground-lead to a live test point – and you should never float the oscilloscope!



Horizontal timebase

The timebase circuitry generates a linear sawtooth waveform which drives the electron beam left to right at a precise rate, set by the time/division knob. The graticule on the screen allows both timing and voltage of a waveform to be measured.

The example below shows using the graticule to measure the fall time of a signal – in this case the timebase was set to 5 μ S/division, and the vertical attenuator was adjusted to place the maximum and minimum voltage levels on the dotted lines (marked 100% and 0%). Then the number of horizontal divisions between where the signal crosses the 90% line and the 10% line was measured. In this way rise and fall times, pulse width, and frequency can be measured with an analog cro. Note that the vertical attenuator was taken out of its calibrated setting to fit the vertical limits.

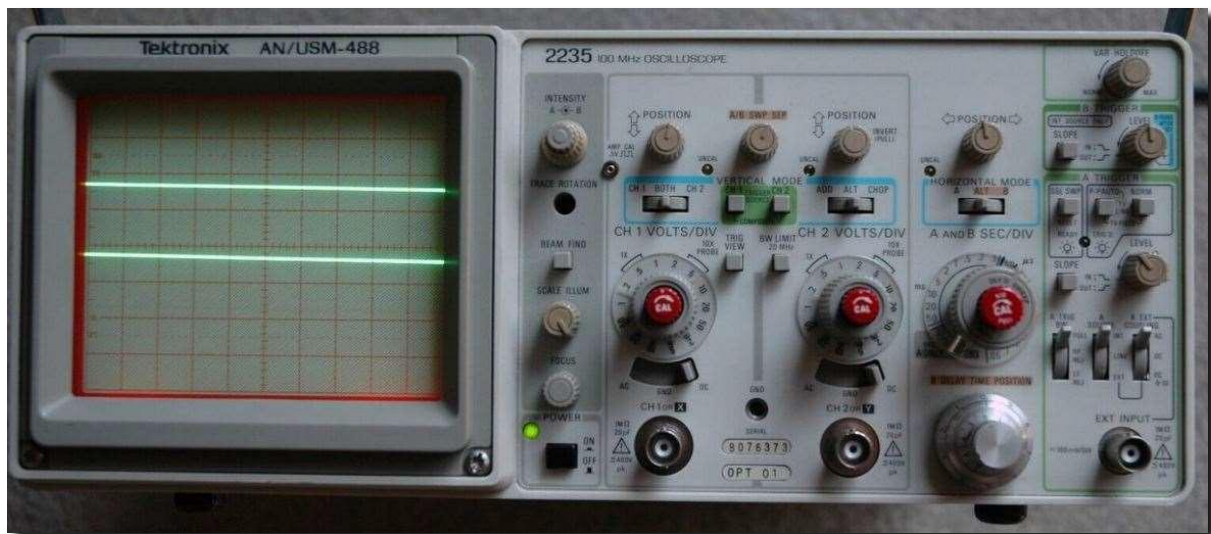


Trigger system

To provide a stable display, the timebase must synchronise the start of its sawtooth with a fixed point on the input signal, which allows a repetitive waveform like sine or square waves to present a stable display. The trigger system is used to choose a voltage level and whether the signal is rising or falling through that level to initiate a sweep.

The trigger system in 'normal' mode will wait until the selected voltage has been passed before beginning a sweep (ie no display till a trigger event), so 'auto' mode allows the scope to initiate a new sweep automatically (useful for initial probing).

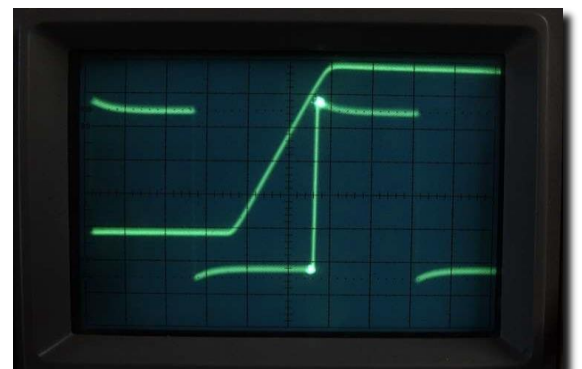
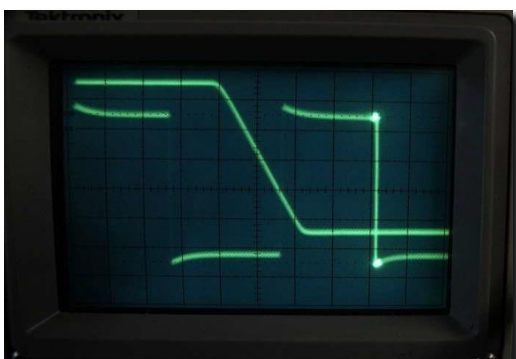
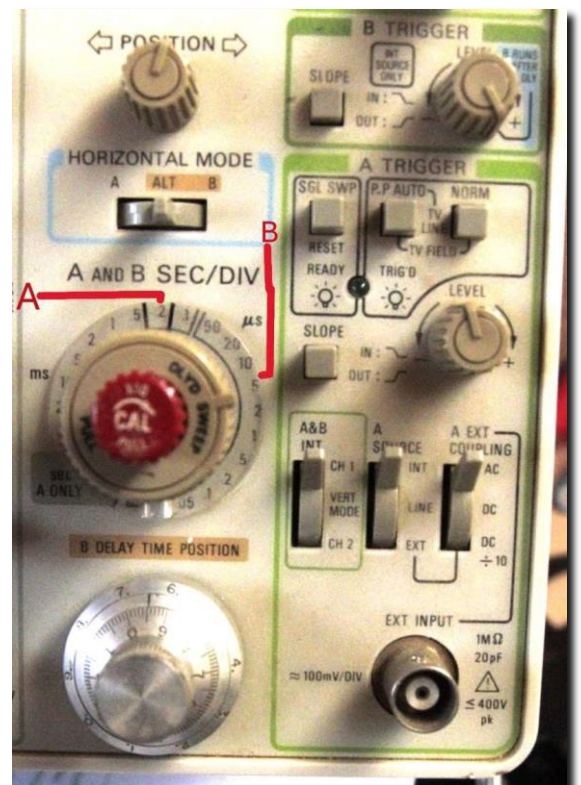
This is a typical two channel scope with a 100MHz bandwidth and delayed timebase capability. Below are two examples of how the delayed timebase can be used.



Delayed sweep

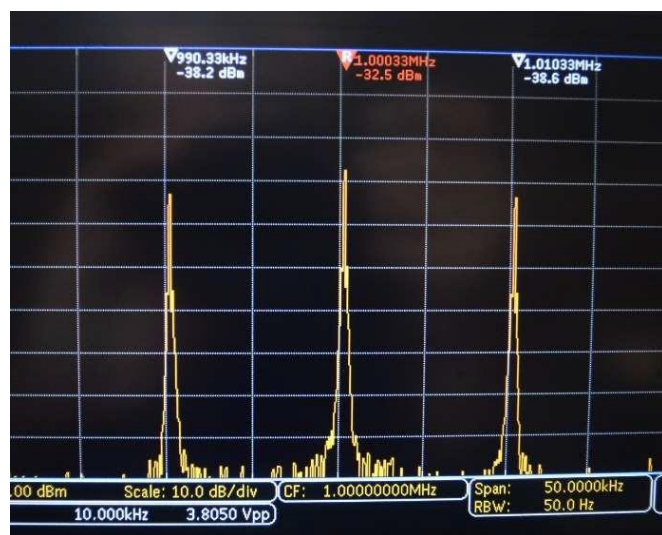
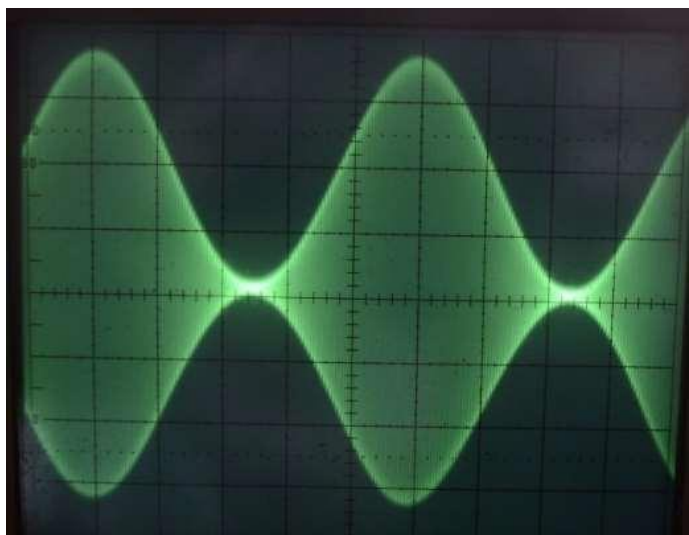
The main A timebase here is set to 0.2mS/division, and the delayed B timebase is set to 5uS/division (shown in red). Both the A and B traces are viewed with the horizontal mode 'alt' setting. The photos below show the point on the A trace where the B trace is triggered as a highlighted region, and the position along the A trace is set with the B delay time position knob.

Rotating that knob allows 'walking' along the A trace to expand a section of interest as per the photos below. Note the 'B trigger' knob is set to 'B runs after delay' for the images below. If instead the B trigger knob is rotated anti-clockwise, it will also seek a trigger before running. In that mode, the B delay time position knob will cause the B sweep to run at the first trigger *after* the delay time. For the traces below this will cause the B sweep to jump from edge to edge as the delay is altered.



AM signals

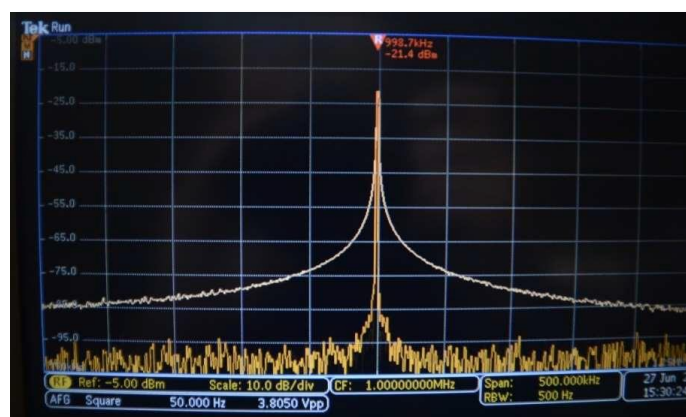
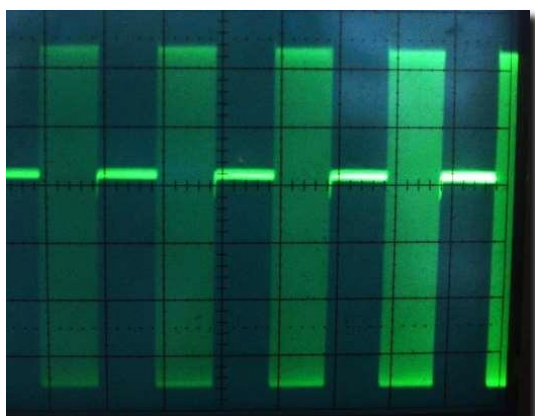
AM waveform with 100% modulation viewed on an analog scope, and its spectrum generated viewed on a spectrum analyser. The amplitude lines are 10dB apart. The modulation was a 10kHz sinewave with a 1MHz carrier. The two sidebands are spaced 10kHz either side of the carrier, and they are each 6dB lower than the carrier. (10kHz as used to clearly separate the sidebands).



Pulsed signals

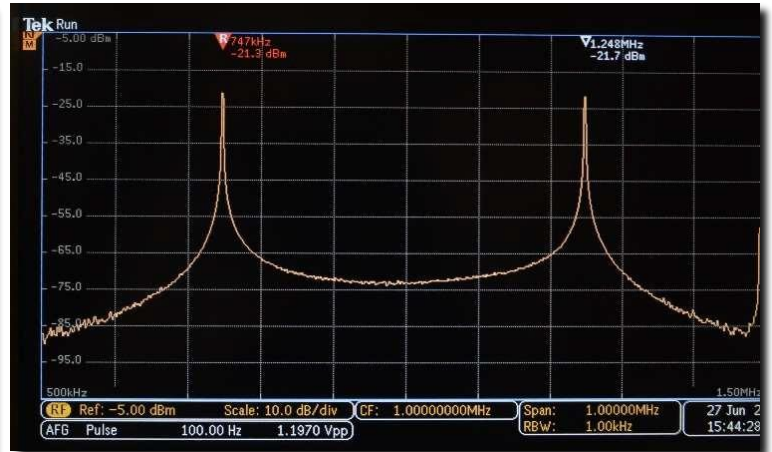
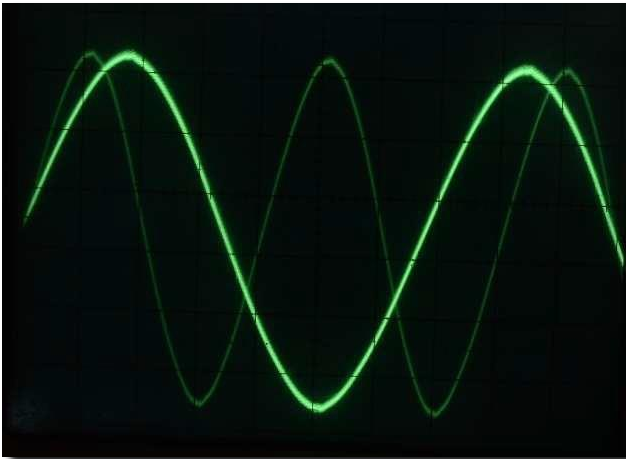
Here a 1MHz carrier being keyed on and off at 50Hz is shown on an analog scope and its spectrum (shown in orange) on a spectrum analyser. The resultant spectrum is spread as shown by the white trace. This is an example of why pulse shaping is required for CW signals. It is clear that the carrier is a single frequency as shown by the orange trace, but it is spread by the rapid switching on and off as shown by the lighter trace which measures over a longer time period. Rounding the envelope reduces the spread.

Note that signals like this can cause triggering issues because the oscilloscope will trigger on *any* rising edge, so if the number of bursts is not an integer on the screen, the scope will trigger part way through the next burst, leading to a 'ghosting' effect. To overcome this there is a 'trigger holdoff' control which forces the timebase to wait by an adjustable period before looking for another trigger point.

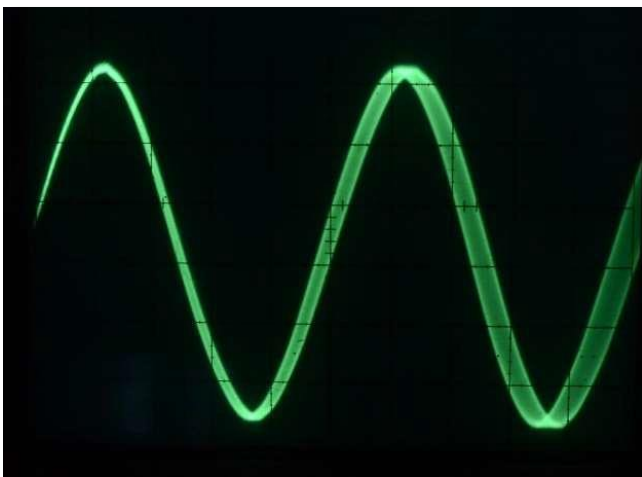


FM signals

Next photos are an FSK signal hopping between two frequencies with the higher frequency only present for 10% of the time, therefore its trace is quite faint on the analog scope. Note however they are the same amplitude on both the scope display and the spectrum display, and also there is some spread of the signal rather than just two peaks on the spectrum display.



Next photos are a 10kHz sinewave, frequency modulating a 1MHz carrier. The spectrum occupies about 150kHz. Note the carrier is down about 45dB with a 114mV modulation signal, this is the first carrier null, indicating the modulation index is close to 2.4. As the amplitude of the modulating signals was increased, further nulls of the carrier occurred at 263mV and 413mV for modulation index of 5.5 and 8.7 as expected. Note, the choice of a 10kHz modulating signal was to more clearly show the individual spectrum lines. Again note that the scope display shows constant amplitude for the FM signal.



Cheers. Brian VK3ZUS.

From Amateur to Emergency Radio Operations and Back Again.

Contribution, Richard VK3UF.

This article outlines my journey from becoming an amateur radio operator to volunteering with the Victorian emergency services. My name is Richard (VK3UF), and I obtained my amateur radio license over 35 years ago through the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group (BARG), with invaluable support from members like Ian (VK3AXH), John (VK3CFH), Bob (VK3BNC), Cliff (VK3CB), and Tom (VK3DMK).

In those early years, the club immersed me in various radio activities, including participating in DX contests, construction nights, fox hunting, WICEN and community events such as the Scout Jamboree on the Air.

In 2005, I relocated to Portland, Victoria, where I worked as a trade teacher in secondary schools and TAFE. During this period, I volunteered with the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard as a crewman and base station radio operator, which required me to obtain my Maritime Operators Certificate of Proficiency (MROCP). This certification involved mastering radio protocols for emergency services, building on the foundational knowledge I had gained from my amateur radio training.



The VMR2233 radio station of the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard is situated in Portland and provides critical assistance to mariners in distress across the waters between Warrnambool, Adelaide, and the northern tip of Tasmania. This station is outfitted with a commercial maritime HF radio, multiple citizens band radios, and a specialised radio for tracking emergency vessels. The radio operator plays a vital role in managing and documenting all communications, which include interactions with the water police, the general public, and distressed vessels. Among the notable rescues I have been involved in are search and rescue missions and medical

evacuations.

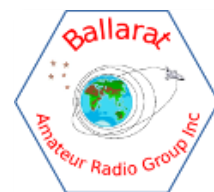
After my tenure with the Coast Guard, I redirected my focus toward the Country Fire Authority (CFA), where I became deeply involved with the headquarters brigade that plays a pivotal role in managing logistics during bushfire emergencies. This brigade is essential in ensuring that frontline firefighters have the resources and support they need to operate effectively in high-pressure situations. One of the most critical responsibilities of this brigade is to establish a reliable radio communication network, which is vital for sharing crucial information among firefighters on the ground. In the chaotic environment of a bushfire, timely communication can mean the difference between life and death, making this task not only important but also immensely challenging.



To facilitate effective communication, the brigade employs a repurposed school bus that has been transformed into a mobile command center. This bus is equipped with a mobile repeater, which amplifies radio signals, ensuring that communication can be maintained even in areas where traditional signals may falter. Additionally, the bus houses various CFA radios, generators, computers, and digital communication tools, all of which work in concert

to create a robust communication network. This setup allows for coordination between different teams, enabling them to share updates on fire behaviour, resource availability, and safety concerns.

The evolution of radio technology has been nothing short of remarkable, marked by significant advancements that have transformed the way we communicate. From the early days of Morse code transmissions to the sophisticated digital modes and satellite communications of today, radio technology has continually adapted to meet the demands of an increasingly interconnected world. Despite these technological advancements, the necessity for skilled operators remains unchanged. The ability to understand and effectively utilise radio equipment, interpret signals, and troubleshoot issues is as crucial now as it was in the past. This is where amateur radio clubs, such as the Ballarat Amateur Radio Group, play a vital role in fostering expertise among enthusiasts.



The club serves as a nurturing ground for both novice and experienced operators, providing a supportive community where individuals can learn, share knowledge, and develop their skills. Through hands-on workshops, training sessions, and collaborative projects, members gain practical experience that is essential for mastering the complexities of modern radio technology. Furthermore, BARG often organize events and contests that encourage participation and engagement, allowing members to apply their skills in real-world scenarios. This not only enhances their technical abilities but also fosters a sense of camaraderie and shared passion for the hobby.

Cheers, Richard VK3UF.



2025 VKFF TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday 11th October 2025
0000 UTC - 2359 UTC

What is it all about?.....

The VKFF Team Championship is held over a 24-hour period. A maximum of 6 hours in that period can be utilised by participants. Teams of amateurs compete against each other, with the goal of obtaining the greatest number of contacts, whilst activating from a qualifying VKFF park or parks.

How do I take part?.....

Create a team of 2 amateurs. Come up with a name for your team. Decide which section you wish to **enter into**. **Register** with VK5PAS, the VKFF National Co-Ordinator via vkffaustralia@gmail.com. Head out to a qualifying VKFF park and compete against other teams of activators.

Prizes.....

Each team member will receive a participation certificate.

Winners will receive a certificate and a glass plaque.

More information?.....Detailed information on the VKFF Team Championship can be found on the WWFF Australia website at <https://www.wwffaustralia.com/vkff-team-championship.html>



QTech 2025

The future of amateur radio is in your hands.

Nov 1 & 2, 2025

Brisbane VHF Group proudly presents the inaugural **QTech 2025** – a weekend conference all about amateur radio.

A program filled with inspiring presentations, live demonstrations, construction projects and more, including:

- YOTA - Future of AR Townhall - Ham radio hotspots - VK9CV DXpedition - Lightning Scatter - ARISS Live feed - POTA [Display]	- Deep Space reception - Future of VHF/uWave Beacons - IC-905 Expansion 10GHz EME 241GHz - And much more
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Dates & Times: Sat November 1st, 2025 9:00am - Sun November 2nd, 2025 12:00pm AEST Location: Kedron-Waveill RSL 21 Kittyhawk Dr, Chermside, Brisbane QLD 4032 Or streamed online Dinner: Saturday night [at additional cost] Tickets:	Places to stay: 25-min travel from BNE airport. List of local accommodation options available on event web site. Costs: \$125 + booking fee Includes Sat morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, Sunday morning tea \$30 + booking fee [streamed online only]
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Some Mind Exercise Amateur Radio Questions

97. 91

10/16

An antenna which is shorter than one quarter wavelength is:

- (a) inductively reactive
- (b) purely resistive
- * (c) capacitively reactive
- (d) resonant

.j.....10/17

The length of the quarter wave radiating element of a 52 MHz ground-plane antenna is:

- * (a) 1.37 metres
- (b) 3.0 metres
- (c) 6.12 metres
- (d) 52.0 metres

10/18

The main advantage of a 28 MHz quarter-wave vertical ground-plane antenna for long distance working is the:

- (a) small size
- (b) omni-directional radiation pattern
- (c) good match to a 300 ohm open-wire feeder cable
- * (d) low radiation angle

A folder of Amateur Radio Exam Questions has been handed to me by Craig VK3KG. I will be putting a selection of them in following editions of the Newsletter. Answers will not be provided this month, look them up if you don't know the answer. Answers supplied next month. (Might even include some explanations)

A funny thing happen on my way home.

After a pleasant coffee at one of our fellow amateurs early one evening, this operator was heading home via Wendouree Parade, stopped to let a swan cross then continued on.

That morning the dreaded fuel light had come on, which meant with my driving a day of driving was still in the tank.

However Murphy stepped in, car engine stopped, steered the car to the curb, damn power steering.

Tried to start, not even a little bit of combustion from one of those four up and down bits in the engine bay.

Must be fuel, gave well know operator whom I had just had coffee a ring and in 5 minutes he was around and armed with a Gerry can. So off to the servo for some fuel and a funnel. The nice lady at the counter realised what we were doing, so handed me about 5 paper towels to go with the funnel.

"You might need these."

Back to the car and added fuel to the tank, luckily the weather that had been very wet earlier had "cleared" up.

Turned the key, waited for the fuel pump to work ,couldn't hear it, but then again I never have.

Engine turned over, still no noise or power from those up and down thingies.

Noted that money light "check engine" was ON.

Then conducted the IT solution, operator who came to the rescue, pulled out a shifting spanner, somewhat big for the job, still it disconnected the negative of the battery and reconnected after about 30 seconds.

Turned the key and BINGO, them up and down things started to make noise, no money light, yessss.

I got home, now worries, noting that the car was actually running a little better, probably needed a reset to learn about the 197,000 km engine.

Big thanks to Dr John VK3CFH for invaluable assistance, he went back home to continue cooking his pork loin chops for tea.

This newsletter editor is most grateful, especially as it's still a bit wintry out there.

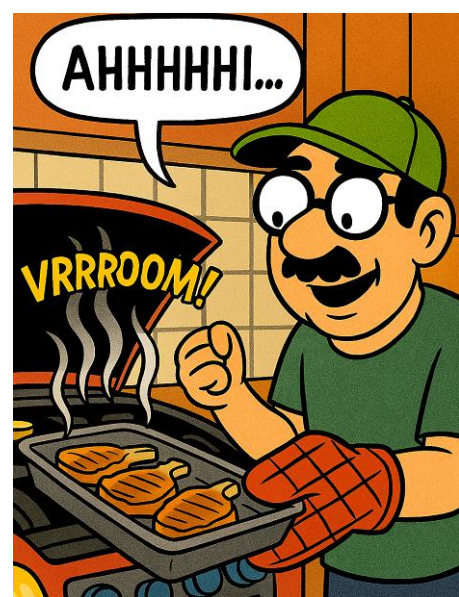
NOW I have to reset all my radio stations in my broadcast wireless, it went back to default which includes an annoying beep-beep when you turn the key off.

Some of you will be familiar with my thoughts on that fuel light.

If it comes on and if you do not put fuel in, then you eventually empty the tank.

So if I disconnect that light, it will never come on and I will never empty the tank.

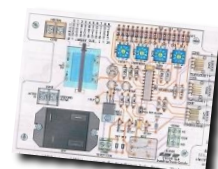
Fair enough...



Magazine Reviews

Silicon Chip Review September 2025

- P2 Editorial Viewpoint. Nicholas Vinen. Ferrite beads and inductors, their chemistry and uses.
- P16 Drones. Dr David Maddison, VK3DSM. Although drones have been in the public eye for nearly twenty years, their history goes back as far as 1849 in various guises. Looks at also the future of these rapidly becoming everyday toys, workhorses, weapons, and explorers of other planets and moons.
- P33 PICKit Basic & MPLAB X 6.25 Programmer/Debugger. Tim Blythman. A review of the latest programmer packed with loads of programming functions.
- P38 PICKit Basic Power Breakout Board. Tim Blythman. A breakout board to go hand in hand with the PICKit basic, how to connect it and use it.
- P42 `High-Performance Pendant Speaker. Part 1. Julian Edgar. A cost effective hanging speaker array with simple crossover for a tweeter and woofer. Designs for different enclosure configurations.
- P48 Home Assistant with a Raspberry Pi. Part 1. Richard Palmer. Looks at home automation systems and techniques, including the various bits of hardware and software available to begin your own system.
- P54 Home Assistant Satellite using Raspberry Pi Pico W. A project with programming and construction details to monitor your home using your WiFi hub.
- P62 Cooling Audio Amplifiers. Part 2. Julian Edgar. Continuation of methods to minimise heat build up and keep your amp relatively cool. Looking at air flow and measuring the temperature of your active components.
- P68 Ducted Heat Transfer Controller. Part 2. Julian Edgar & John Clark. Gets down to the nitty gritty of construction of PCB and the peripherals. With setup and calibration of them once installed.
- P76 Circuit Notebook. UV Monitor using an ATtiny85, Emergency light using a supercap, Switching between 115V and 230Vac,
- P78 USB-C Power Monitor. Part 2. Tim Blythman. Final article showing construction and setting up of this very useful USB power monitor.
- P86 Serviceman's Log. Soggy ceiling circuit, Calibrating a Silicon Chip Diff Probe, LG air conditioner.
- P92 Vintage Radio. The Pye PHA 520 "Colombo Plan" Radio circa 1950's. Alby Thomas, Circuit Description by Ian Batty. In 1951 a meeting of Commonwealth Nations was held in Colombo (Sri Lanka) and a plan was devised to aid developing Asian countries. Australia provided a network of broadcast radio stations and Pye Australia, along with AWA, were commissioned with the task of design and manufacture of radios to receive these broadcasts. The Pye radio able to receive on four shortwave bands used the new transistor technology. Powered by six D-Cells to give a 9V supply.



BARG Form - Membership Application Form (was V3) Rev PA11.docx



Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc
Registration Number A0006953T
ABN 44 247 200 143
Application for Club Membership

This completed document should be emailed to the Secretary at BARG@BARG.ORG.AU, or brought along to a face to face meeting.

Surname: _____ **Given Names:** _____

Callsign: _____

Are you a financial member of WIA?: Yes No

Partner's Name: _____

Residential Address: _____

Postcode: _____

PostalAddress: _____
(If different to above) **Postcode:** _____

Telephone;
(Work) _____ (Home) _____ (Mobile) _____

EmailAddress _____

Unless otherwise requested, Newsletters and Club information will be sent to your email address. If the Club decides to publish a Club Directory, are you willing to have the above information included? Please indicate: **Yes** **No**

By applying for membership I indicate my support of the purposes of the Association and agree to comply with the Association rules in effect.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Proposed By: _____ **Callsign:** _____ **Date:** _____

Seconded By: _____ **Callsign:** _____ **Date:** _____

--ooOoo--

Presented to Committee: _____ **Decision:** Accept / Reject

Fee Paid: \$ _____ **Date:** _____ **Receipt No(if applicable:)** _____

Entered into Membership Register: _____ **Secretary:** _____

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